

XIV.—*Note on the Nesting of the Lanner Falcon* (*Falco lanarius*, *Schlegel*). By J. H. COCHRANE.

(Plate IV.)

ON the 26th of March, 1863, I left my Nile-boat, and set out with some friends to visit the Pyramids of Ghizeh. While they explored the wonders of the place, I walked towards the three trees to the left of the Sphinx and Third Pyramid in hopes of finding something worth shooting, as on a previous visit, in 1862, I had there observed a pair of what I had imagined to be *Falco peregrinus*. In this I was unsuccessful. A Bedouin, who had followed me for some time, on hearing what I wanted, volunteered to get me four young birds of what he called "Sagr el h'ohr," and forthwith ran off to find them. Feeling very tired and decidedly sceptical about the Bedouin's success, I paid very little attention to him; but, on his return, my curiosity was much excited by his saying there were no young birds—only eggs. Of course I was all anxiety to see them, and followed him to the south side of the Small or Third Pyramid. A short but steep climb brought one up to the nest (if it was worthy of the name)—a few feathers and still fewer sticks in a hollow on one of the steps, about thirty feet from the top, and on them four eggs. I saw both the birds—one of them very distinctly. Most stupidly, I tried a long shot, missed, and lost all chance of satisfactorily identifying them. I feel almost sure they were not *Falco peregrinus*. The Arab described them as having a red head. Two of the eggs were addled, two incubated.

On the 3rd of April following, on my return from a fortnight's trip down the Rosetta branch of the Nile, the same Bedouin, whom I had asked to look out for nests for me, brought me a fine living female *Falco lanarius* and three eggs, which he had taken on the Dashoor Pyramid. The eggs were much incubated, and I unfortunately broke one in blowing it. The Bedouin said he had taken the bird by throwing a cloth over it at night, and in so doing had broken one of the eggs, which originally had been four in number. These eggs much resemble those before mentioned. The bird itself was brought by me to

England alive, and is now in the gardens of the Zoological Society of London.

[Mr. W. C. Hewitson has, with his usual kindness, drawn the accompanying Plate, in which what we believe to be the first well-identified eggs of *Falco lanarius*, Schlegel, are depicted.

Fig. 1 represents one of the eggs obtained, April 3rd, 1863, from the Pyramid of Dashoor, along with the female now alive in the Zoological Society's Gardens.

Fig. 2 represents one of the eggs obtained from the small Pyramid of Ghizeh, 26th of March, 1863.

We may remark that we believe that Egyptian specimens of *Falco sacer* are not distinguishable from the European form which has been termed *Falco feldeggii*. On the other hand, Abyssinian examples (*Falco tanypterus*, Licht.) are decidedly smaller and darker in colouring.—ED.]

XV.—*Note on Astur griseiceps, Schlegel.* By A. R. WALLACE, F.Z.S., &c.

(Plate V.)

THIS beautiful Hawk, which has been recently described by Dr. Schlegel (Muséum d'Histoire Nat. des Pays-Bas, "Astures," p. 24), presents us with another case of the island of Celebes possessing its own restricted species. The well-known *Astur trivirgatus* of Temminck ranges over Sumatra, Java, Borneo, the Philippine Islands, and, with but slight modification, over the whole of India and Ceylon; but the moment we pass over into Celebes, we find it represented by the allied yet perfectly distinct species now figured.

The specimens of *Astur griseiceps* in the Leyden Museum are from the northern part of the island, where I also found it. I likewise obtained one specimen of this species in the south, near Macassar. It seems, however, to be a rare bird, as the Leyden Museum contains only three specimens, obtained from Forsten, who collected for nearly two years in North Celebes; and I myself got the same number during about nine months' assiduous collecting in various parts of the island.

